

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application. Claims 1, 6, 10-12, 14, 17, 21, and 26 have been amended.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended): A guidewire, comprising:

an elongate member comprising a proximal end, a main body having a first uniform diameter, a distal end comprising an elongate tip having a second uniform diameter, and a taper portion disposed directly between the main body and distal end and defining a first taper between the first and second uniform diameters, the elongate member forming a solid, unitary portion; and

~~a coating having at least a partial exterior with a second taper that approximates the first taper of the taper portion~~ disposed on the distal end and comprising a flexible tip having a length axially extending beyond the distal end, the ratio of the length to the first uniform diameter being greater than 3:1, the coating having a proximal portion and a distal portion, the proximal portion commencing within the taper portion of the elongate member and encapsulating the second uniform diameter, wherein at least a partial exterior of the coating has a second taper that approximates the first taper of the taper portion.

2. (Previously presented): The guidewire of claim 1, further comprising a radiopaque marker disposed in the flexible tip, the radiopaque marker providing localized weight to the flexible tip to enhance flow direction properties of the flexible tip.

3. (Previously presented): The guidewire of claim 2, wherein a portion of the coating is disposed between the distal end of the elongate member and the radiopaque marker, the coating being a blend of polymers selected to achieve the desired flexibility and the portion of the coating being solid.

4. (Previously presented): The guidewire of claim 1, wherein the flexible tip comprises radiopaque material, the radiopaque material comprising an opacifying agent loaded into the flexible tip, a concentration of the opacifying agent being based upon the diameter of the elongate member.

5. (Previously presented): The guidewire of claim 1, wherein the coating comprises radiopaque material, the radiopaque material comprising an opacifying agent loaded into the coating, a concentration of the opacifying agent being based upon the diameter of the coating.
6. (Currently amended): The guidewire of claim 1, wherein the coating comprises an outer diameter approximately equal to or less than the first uniform diameter.
7. (Previously presented): The guidewire of claim 1, wherein the flexible tip is longer than the elongate tip of the distal end.
8. (Original): The guidewire of claim 1, wherein the elongate member comprises one of stainless steel and nitinol.
9. (Previously presented): The guidewire of claim 1, further comprising a lubricious coating disposed directly on at least a portion of the main body.
10. (Currently amended): The guidewire of claim 1, wherein the ratio of the length of the flexible tip to the first uniform diameter is between 10:1 and 500:1.
11. (Currently amended): The guidewire of claim 1, wherein the ratio of the length of the flexible tip to the first uniform diameter is between 10:1 and 300:1.
12. (Currently amended): The guidewire of claim 1, wherein the ratio of the length of the flexible tip to the first uniform diameter is between 12:1 and 250:1.
13. (Original): The guidewire of claim 1, wherein the length of the flexible tip is greater than 3 mm.

14. (Currently amended): A guidewire, comprising:

an elongate member comprising a proximal end, a main body having a first diameter, a distal end comprising an elongate tip having a first length and a uniform second diameter, and a taper portion disposed directly between the main body and distal end and defining a first taper between the first and second diameters, the elongate member forming a solid, unitary portion;

~~a coating disposed on the distal end, the coating having at least a partial exterior with a second taper that approximates the first taper of the taper portion~~ and comprising a flexible tip having a second length axially extending beyond the elongate tip, the second length being approximately equal to or greater than the first length, wherein at least a partial exterior of the coating has a second taper that approximates the first taper of the taper portion.

15. (Original): The guidewire of claim 14, further comprising a radiopaque marker disposed in the flexible tip.

16. (Previously presented): The guidewire of claim 15, wherein a portion of the coating is disposed between the distal end and the radiopaque marker.

17. (Currently amended): The guidewire of claim 14, wherein the flexible tip comprises radiopaque material, the radiopaque material comprising an opacifying agent loaded into the coating, a concentration of the opacifying agent being based upon the uniform second diameter of the elongate member.

18. (Previously presented): The guidewire of claim 14, wherein the coating comprises radiopaque material, the radiopaque material comprising an opacifying agent loaded into the coating, a concentration of the opacifying agent being based upon the diameter of the coating.

19. (Previously presented): The guidewire of claim 14, wherein the coating is disposed on at least a portion of the main body.

20. (Previously presented): The guidewire of claim 14, wherein the flexible tip comprises a curvilinear portion that is J-shaped and has a rounded tip.

21. (Currently amended): A guidewire, comprising:

an elongate member comprising a proximal end, a main body having a first diameter, a distal end comprising an elongate tip having a uniform second diameter, and a taper portion disposed directly between the main body and distal end and defining a taper between the first and second diameters;

a polymer coating disposed on the distal end and commencing within a portion of the taper portion, at least a portion of the exterior of the polymer coating has a second taper that approximates the taper of the taper portion, the polymer coating comprising a flexible tip having a length axially extending beyond the distal end, the length of the flexible tip being greater than a longitudinal length of the elongate tip;

a radiopaque marker disposed in the flexible tip to provide localized weight within the flexible tip and spaced from the distal end of the elongate member; and

a lubricious coating disposed on at least a portion of the main body.

22. (Original): The guidewire of claim 21, wherein the ratio of the length of the flexible tip to the first diameter is between 10:1 and 500:1.

23. (Original): The guidewire of claim 21, wherein the ratio of the length of the flexible tip to the first diameter is between 10:1 and 300:1.

24. (Original): The guidewire of claim 21, wherein the ratio of the length of the flexible tip to the first diameter is between 12:1 and 250:1.

25. (Original): The guidewire of claim 21, wherein the length of the flexible tip is greater than 3 mm.

26. (Currently amended): A guidewire comprising:

an elongate member comprising proximal and distal ends, the proximal end having a first outer diameter and the distal end having a uniform second outer diameter; and

a coating disposed on the distal end of the elongate member, at least a portion of the exterior of the coating has a taper that approximates a corresponding taper of the elongate member, the coating comprising a flexible tip extending beyond the distal end and encompassing a solid member, the solid member being supported solely by the coating and spaced from the distal end to provide localized weight within the coating, the flexible tip being approximately equal to or greater than a longitudinal length of the distal end.

27. (Original): The guidewire according to claim 26, wherein the solid member comprises a radiopaque marker.

28. (Previously presented): The guidewire according to claim 26, wherein a portion of the coating is disposed between the distal end of the elongate member and the solid member, the portion of the coating being solid.